GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

No. R. 9270—*R.M.* 56-27-6, *dated* 10*th May* 1929.

CULTIVATION OF LANDS OVERGROWN WITH LANTANA OR PRICKLY PEAR.

A and C Slips to 159 of the Revenue Manual, Volume I, page 116, as per Government Order No. R. 8477-86—R. M. 56-27-5, dated the 19th April 1929.

The above para will be modified and recast as follows :—

(1) Deputy Commissioners are empowered to grant lands assessed or unassessed, up to a limit of 20 acres and 10 acres as regards dry and wet lands respectively. The Revenue Commissioner is authorised to grant up to 100 acres and 25 acres similarly. Applications for larger areas should be submitted to Government for sanction after due investigation.

The conditions governing each grant are as follows :—

(i) Lantana or prickly pear should be eradicated from a prescribed extent of land every year and the whole area taken up cleared of pest and brought under cultivation within a period to be fixed by the Deputy Commissioner.

(ii) The period of concession in each case should be fixed with due regard to the extent of land overgrown with lantana or prickly pear, the cost involved in eradicating the pest and the time which may elapse before the raiyat who undertakes such clearing, can expect to reimburse himself the outlay he has had to incur.

(iii) Failure to remove the lantana or prickly pear from the area prescribed in any year, and to keep the area already cleared free from further growth, renders the grantee liable to pay the full assessment from the date of such failure.

(2) The Deputy Commissioner may for sufficient reasons, extend the total period within which the entire area is to be cleared and condoned any default that may have been made in clearing the prescribed extent in any year.

(3) The remission of kandayam on the lands granted as above will be sanctioned annually by the Jamabandi Officer, after satisfying himself that the conditions of the grant have been complied with. He may also reduce the amount of remission whenever necessary and direct payment of the balance.

(4) When lands under occupation are found to be overgrown with lantana or prickly pears and the Deputy Commissioner, on personal inspection is satisfied that reasonable precaution has been taken by the occupier thereof against its ravages and that some special concessions are necessary to ensure its thorough removal the Deputy Commissioner, may where the land is fairly large in extent grant remissions of assessment thereon for a period not exceeding five years. When only a portion of a land to which the concessions are made applicable is so overgrown, the remission granted will be proportionate to the area affected.

(5) In the case of Kharab and gomal land which cannot be given out for cultivation without affecting the requirements of the people for grazing and other purposes, local officers should endeavour to encourge the raiyats te adopt combined action to remove the pest, subjecting them, in case of non-compliance, to the temporary suspension of the privileges granted to them in respect of the land if necessary. If the growth is so great as to be a menace to the health of the neighbouring people or a source of obstruction to efforts which are being made for its destruction in the vicinity and its removal is likely to be too costly for the raiyats to undertake and to impose too great a burden on them the clearance should be effected out of the special funds of District Boards. Where the existence of lantana or prickly pear in the lands is likely to be injurious to cultivation in the adjacent agricultural land, the owners of the latter may be induced by the grant of similar concessions to check its growth and progress.

(6) Sufficient collateral security should be taken when takavi or other loans are granted for the improvement of the lands taken up under these rules.

(7) All lands enjoying the benefit of the above concessions should be periodically inspected and steps taken to enforce the conditions in cases of neglect.

(8) Lists of large blocks of lands overgrown with lantana and available for cultivation under the rules should be prepared and periodically advertised by the Deputy Commissioners of Districts, with the concurrence of the Revenue Commissioner with a view to attract intending settlers. Applications should be disposed of without delay.

Note.—A special report should be submitted at the end of every official year on the working of the above rules in all the Districts.

(9) In the case of occupied lands obtained or held under the concessions granted by Government, the responsibility of the land owners or occupants to keep their lands clear of vegetation should be strictly enforced. The concessions allowed in rule 4 *supra*, should be granted more freely.

(10) In the case of unoccupied lands (assessed and unassessed) if persons do not readily come forward to take them up for cultivation on the conditions laid down in the foregoing rules, immediate action should be taken by the local officers to remove the pest by employing a special agency, if necessary, the cost involved being debited to Government. The lands thus cleared of lantana should be disposed of at once for cultivation by sale in public auction.

(11) As regards vacant sites the local bodies are responsible for keeping them in a sanitary condition and they should actively help in removing rank growth on unoccupied sites in villages. In the case of occupied Village sites the Village Sanitation Rules should be strictly enforced and prompt steps should be taken to prosecute the owners of such sites, if they persist in their failure to remove such growth in spite of notices served on them under the rules.

(12) As regards communal lands (including gomal) and unoccupied village sites the removal of the pest should be undertaken under the Village Improvement Scheme, the contribution from the villagers being limited to one-third of the cost, the remaining two-thirds being borne by Government.

(13) In the case of lands under the control of Government Departments, the Heads of Departments concerned should with a view to induce the people to exert in this important direction, set an example by making it a point to see that the lands in their charge adjoining occupied lands, communications, and village sites are kept clear of lantana at least up to a limit of 100 yards and take the necessary action for the eradication of the pest so that the efforts made to remove it from the adjacent agricultural communal lands and village sites may be attended with successful results without affording scope for its regeneration.

(14) The Revenue Commissioner should impress upon all local officers the importance of the extirpation of lantana and other rank growth and see that these officers carry out the measures needed and enforce the rules on the subject.

N. B.—An annual report should be submitted to Government.

(15) The above rules will be in force until further orders.

By Order,

B. NARAYANASWAMI IYENGAR,

Offg. *General Secretary to Government.*